

conference. The Review Panel shall disregard any variance from procedures specified in this part or elsewhere that would not materially have affected the outcome of the trial before the Commission. Within thirty days after receipt of the record of trial, the Review Panel shall either:

(i) Forward the case to the Secretary of Defense with a recommendation as to disposition, or

(ii) Return the case to the Appointing Authority for further proceedings, provided that a majority of the Review Panel has formed a definite and firm conviction that a material error of law occurred.

(5) *Review by the Secretary of Defense.* The Secretary of Defense shall review the record of trial and the recommendation of the Review Panel and either return the case for further proceedings or, unless making the final decision pursuant to a Presidential designation under section 4(c)(8) of the President's Military Order, forward it to the President with a recommendation as to disposition.

(6) *Final decision.* After review by the Secretary of Defense, the record of trial and all recommendations will be forwarded to the President for review and final decision (unless the President has designated the Secretary of Defense to perform this function). If the President has so designated the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary may approve or disapprove findings or change a finding of Guilty to a finding of Guilty to a lesser-included offense, or mitigate, commute, defer, or suspend the sentence imposed or any portion thereof. If the Secretary of Defense is authorized to render the final decision, the review of the Secretary of Defense under paragraph (h)(5) of this section shall constitute the final decision.

§9.7 Regulations.

(a) *Supplementary regulations and instructions.* The Appointing Authority shall, subject to approval of the General Counsel of the Department of Defense if the Appointing Authority is not the Secretary of Defense, publish such further regulations consistent with the President's Military Order and this part as are necessary or appro-

priate for the conduct of proceedings by Commissions under the President's Military Order. The General Counsel shall issue such instructions consistent with the President's Military Order and this part as the General Counsel deems necessary to facilitate the conduct of proceedings by such Commissions, including those governing the establishment of Commission-related offices and performance evaluation and reporting relationships.

(b) *Construction.* In the event of any inconsistency between the President's Military Order and this part, including any supplementary regulations or instructions issued under paragraph (a) of this section, the provisions of the President's Military Order shall govern. In the event of any inconsistency between this part and any regulations or instructions issued under paragraph (a) of this section, the provisions of this part shall govern.

§9.8 Authority.

Nothing in this part shall be construed to limit in any way the authority of the President as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces or the power of the President to grant reprieves and pardons. Nothing in this part shall affect the authority to constitute military commissions for a purpose not governed by the President's Military Order.

§9.9 Protection of State secrets.

Nothing in this part shall be construed to authorize disclosure of state secrets to any person not authorized to receive them.

§9.10 Other.

This part is not intended to and does not create any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party, against the United States, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person. No provision in this part shall be construed to be a requirement of the United States Constitution. Section and subsection captions in this document are for convenience only and shall not be used in construing the requirements of this part. Failure to meet a time period specified in this